



Drought Information Statement for Eastern NE and Southwest IA

Valid December 2, 2023

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley, NE

Contact Information: nws.omaha@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated January 1st, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://weather.gov/oax/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



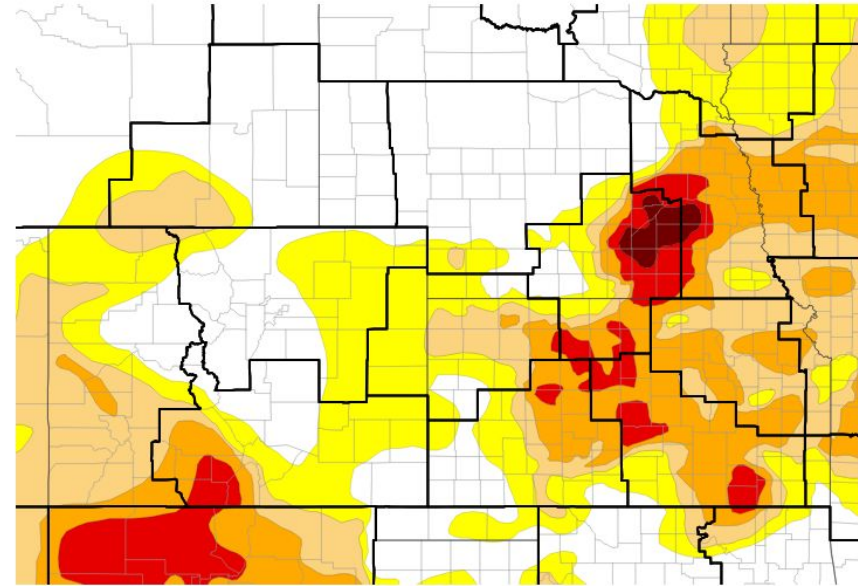


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought conditions deteriorated across far southeast Nebraska and western Iowa over the month of November.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Portions of Butler and Seward.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Boone, Platte, Colfax, Butler, Saunders, Seward, Lancaster, Saline, Jefferson, and Dodge counties in eastern NE.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Thurston, Wayne, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Boone, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Saunders, Dodge, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Saline, Jefferson, and Gage counties in Eastern NE. Monona, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills and Montgomery in southwest IA.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Small portions of northeast NE, western Iowa, and the majority of southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of northeast NE and southeast NE.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 11/28/23



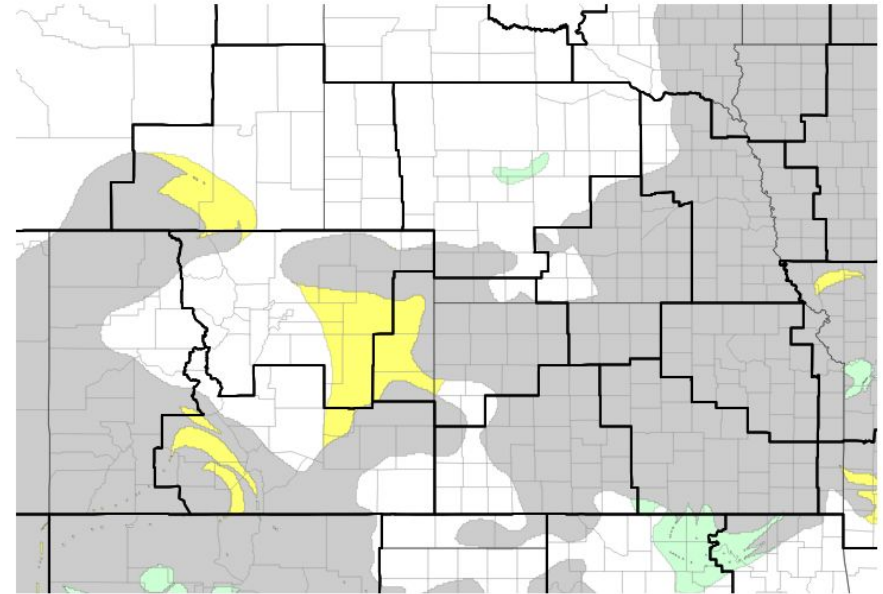


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

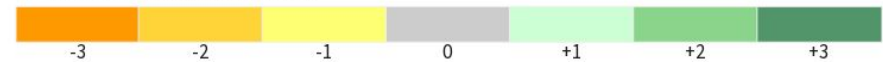
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** None
 - **No Change:** The entire area.
 - **Drought Improved:** None
- Drought category adjustments tend to slow in the fall and winter months.
 - Changes are more pronounced on longer timelines: [Change Maps](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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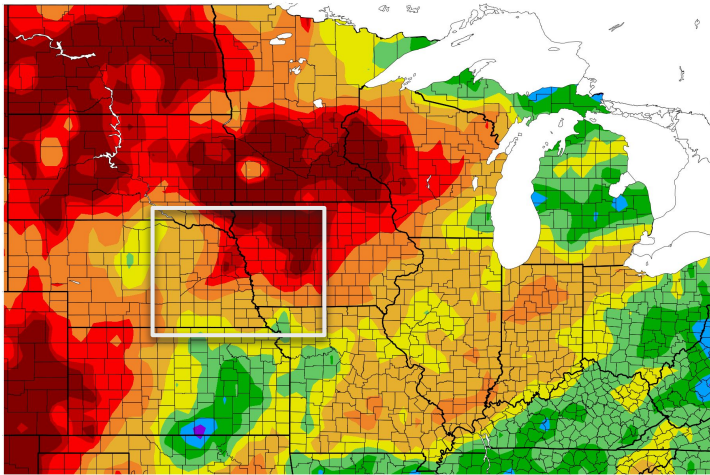




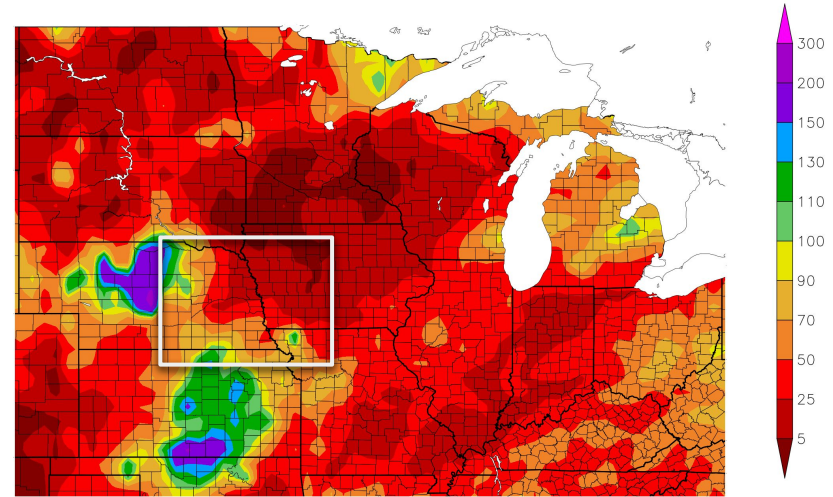
Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

Precipitation (in)
11/2/2023 - 12/1/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/2/2023 - 12/1/2023



Generated 12/2/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers Generated 12/2/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- Precipitation across the local region over the previous 30 days has been below normal with northeastern Nebraska and the entire state of Iowa being especially dry.

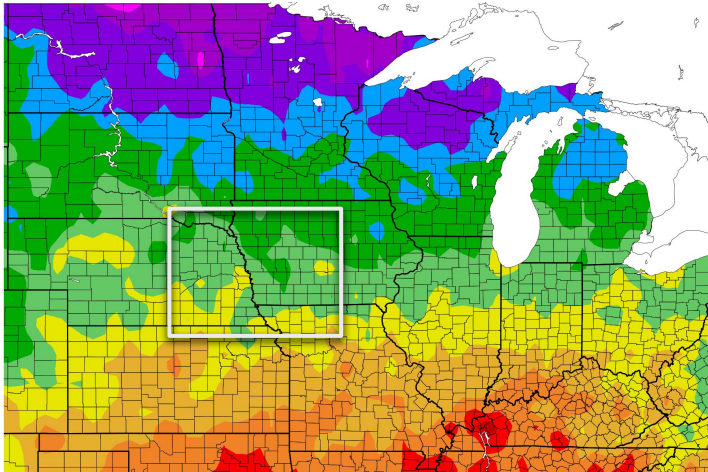




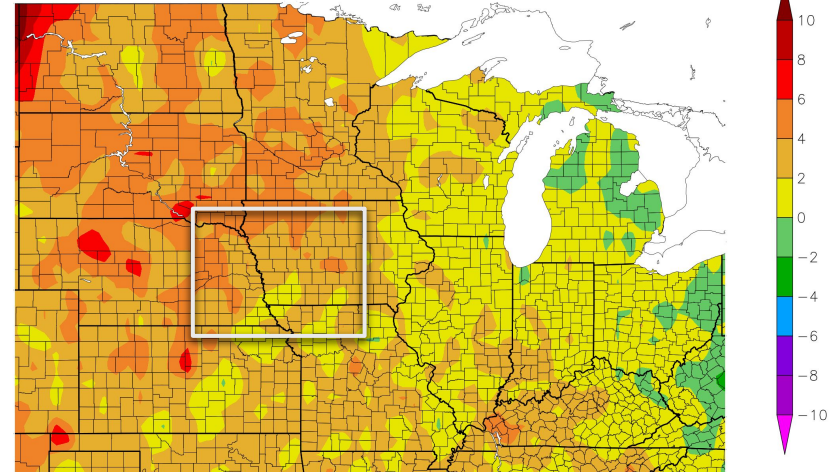
Temperature

Over the Past 30 Days

Temperature (F)
11/2/2023 - 12/1/2023



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/2/2023 - 12/1/2023



Generated 12/2/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers Generated 12/2/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- Temperatures across the local region have been generally 1-3 degrees above normal over the previous 30 days. This trend has held true for most of 2023.





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow observations have improved. Although far northeast Nebraska has enjoyed a wet 2023, precipitation deficits for the year are running 4-10" below normal for the remainder of the area.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains low in areas south and east of the Omaha metropolitan area.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- All counties in the area are considered to now have "critical" fuel status. The majority of fuels will support extreme fire behavior and spread when the weather conditions meet Red Flag criteria.

Other Impacts

- Hundreds of dead deer have been spotted in Southern Iowa over the last month.
- Experts say the cause is Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, or EHD. Conventional wisdom holds that the disease gets more prevalent in years with a drought or a flood

Mitigation Actions

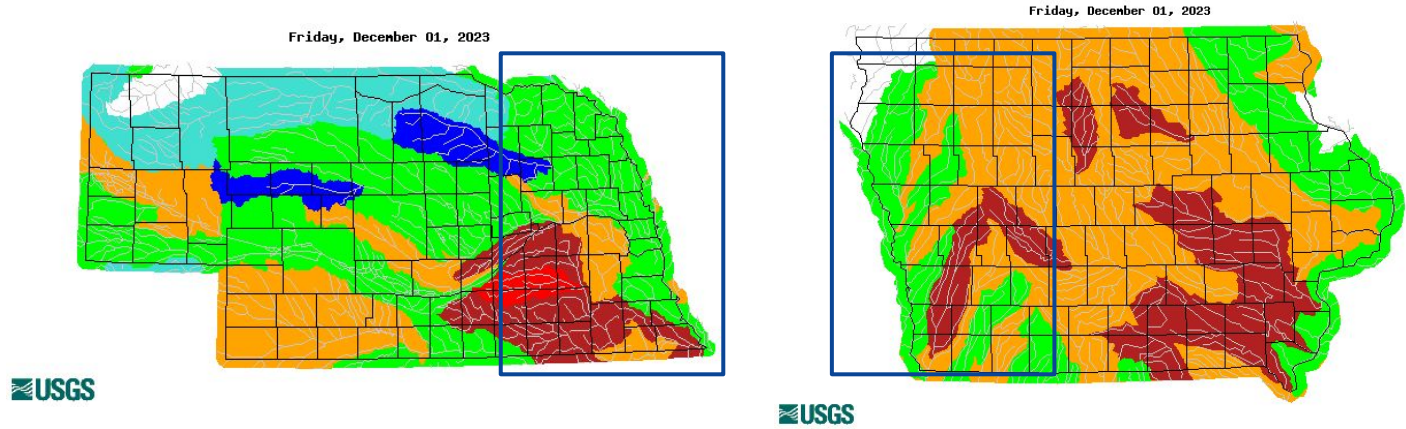
- In October, Shenandoah, IA enacted water restrictions for the first time in 23 years.
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow reflects where the precipitation has been falling over the past 30 days.
- Much of northeast Nebraska is flowing normal or above normal.
- Much of southeast Nebraska and parts of southwest Iowa are below normal.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Captions:

Left USGS 7 day average streamflow NE HUC map
 Right USGS 7 day average streamflow IA HUC map
 Both valid December 1, 2023

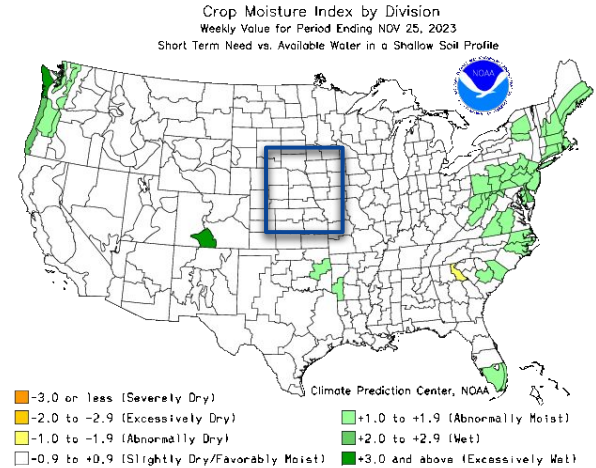
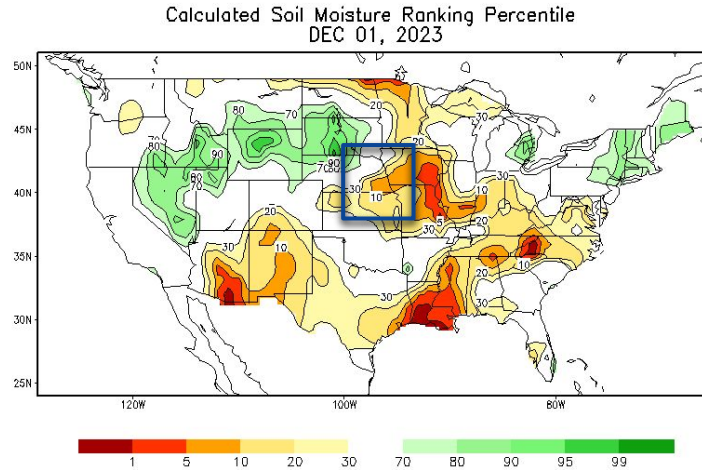




Agricultural Impacts

Link to the Latest [USDA Crop Progress Reports](#) by State

- Soil moisture has improved dramatically in northeast Nebraska.
- Soil moisture continues to run below normal for the remainder of the area.
- The crop moisture index is running Near Normal.

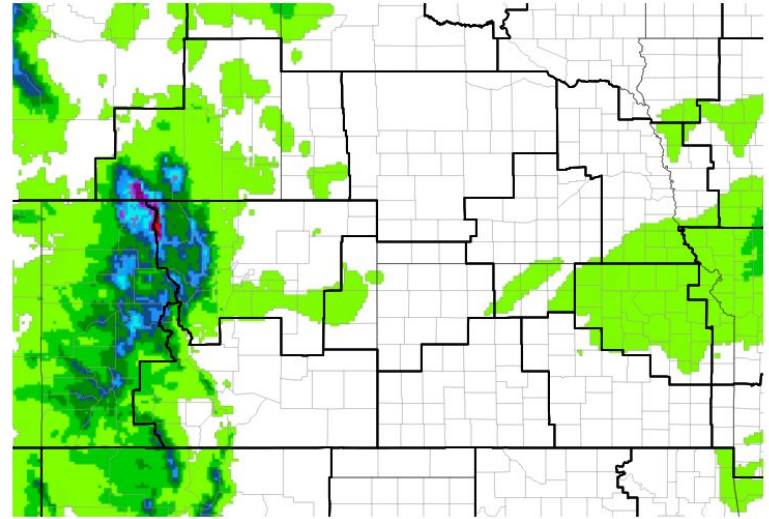




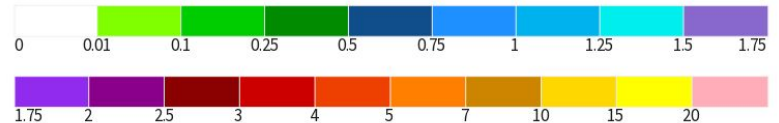
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- There are small precipitation chances in the forecast in the next 7 days.
- Amounts are forecast to remain below 0.10”.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/01/23





Drought Outlook

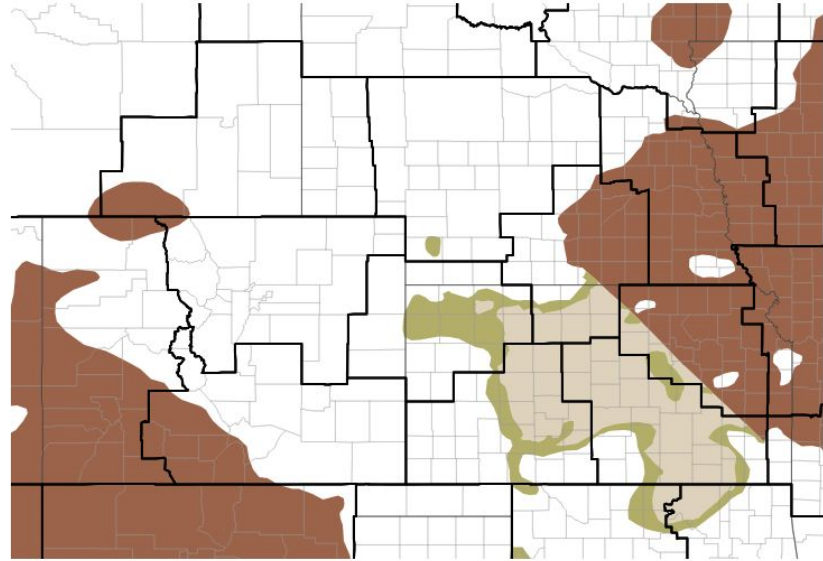
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Winter is typically the driest season of the year in the Corn Belt. Drought category changes typically slow as a result.
- The seasonal 3 month drought outlook calls for drought to persist across much of the region.
- Much of central Kansas has a chance for improving drought conditions over the course of December, January, and February.

Link to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 11/16/23

